Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB

AFSC ANDREWS AFB

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USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: MASS, DA

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENT APPROVES FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF

THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER

1. ON MARCH 11 THE FOLKETING (PARLIAMENT) DEBATED A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SPP) WHICH IN EFFECT CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO STOP ANY FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF A LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER PURCHASE TO REPLACE DENMARK'S F-100'S. AFTER A LENGTHY DEBATE THE RESOLUTION WAS DEFEATED 88-17 WITH 14 ABSTENTIONS. ALL THE PARTIES OF THE CENTER-RIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(INCLUDING THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND GLISTRUP'S

PROGRESSIVES) VOTED AGAINST THE RESULTION EXCEPT THE RADICALS WHO ABSTAINED. THE THREE FAR-LEFT PARTIES VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION.

- 2. DURING THE DEBATE, DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER RE-EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD YET MADE NO DECISION CONCERING AN AIRCRAFT PURCHASE AND THAT WHEN SUCH A DECISION WERE MADE IT WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE RATIFIED BY THE FOLKETING.
- 3. A SPOKESMAN FOR GLISTRUP'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY SAID THAT THE PROGRESSIVES WERE WAITING FOR THE FINAL REPORTS FROM THE CONSORTIUM STEERING COMMITTEE BEFORE MAKING UP THEIR MIND (COMMENT: IN SO STATING HE IMPLIED THAT DESPITE GLISTRUPS FORMER CALL FOR THE DISMANTLING OF DENMARK'S DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT, THE PARTY NOW SUPPORTS THE PRESUMTION OF A NEED FOR THE FIGHTER REPLACEMENT.)
- 4. WHILE BOTH THE CONSERVATIVES AND LIBERALS CALLED FOR QUICK DECISION ON THE ISSUE THE RADICALS SAID THAT A PURCHASE WOULD EXCEED THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FOUR YEAR (1973-77) DEFENSE AGREEMENT. THE RADICALS DEFENSE SPOKESMAN (BILGRAW NIELSEN) CALLED FOR A NEW ASSESSMENT OF DANISH SECURITY POLICY WHICH WOULD ANALYZE THE ROLE OF DANISH DEFENSE IN THE 1980'S AS PART OF CONSIDERATION OF THE FIGHTER PURCHASE. HE ALSO SUCCESSFULLY REQUESTED THAT CONSIDERATION OF THE FIGHTER PURCHASE BE MOVED FROM THE EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY DABOULE FOUR COMMITTEE TO THE PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE COMMITTEE. (COMMENT: THE DEFENSE MINISTER AND OTHER HAVE INTER PRETED NIELSEN'S REMAKRS TO MEAN THAT AT LEAST THE RADICALS WOULD NOT USE THEIR VETO AS ONE OF THE FOUR PARTIES TO THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO PREVENT THE FIGHER PURCHASE.)
- 5. AT THE END OF THE DEBATE MOLLER CONCLUDED THAT THERE CONTINUES TO BE BROAD PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY IN SUPPORT OF PRESENT DANISH SECURITY POLICY. CROWE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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